

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

July 20, 2021

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

Present: Jason Orth, Robert Barbier, Greg Grotegut, Brian Kohlmeier, David Funkhouser, Dan Hartwig, Andrew Hyer, Brian Nack, Mike Polich, Julie Reimer, Mason Simmons, Dave Nickels, and Holly Herzog.

Also Present: Rick Olig - BOTS, James Falkowski – Manitowoc County Board, Lori Hansen – Village of Maribel, Paul Granger – Mishicot Police Dept, and Jason Freiboth – Manitowoc Police Dept.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Jason Orth.

Minutes: No changes to the previous meeting minutes which were distributed via email.

Public Input: James Falkowski who represents the Maribel area stated the Village of Maribel is requesting a speed reduction for CORD Z from I43 to Pleasant Road. Falkowski stated this area is a TIF District that has seen the addition of a convenience store/restaurant, two trucking companies and in the future a cheese factory. A petition of 125 signatures was previously provided to the commission. Lori Hansen from the Village stated it is hard for the trucking companies to exit their driveways and several close calls have occurred. The Village would like to lower the speed from 55 mph to 45 mph in this area to increase safety.

James Falkowski added for consideration during the discussion on ATV/UTVs that he has heard from constituents about ATV/UTVs operating on County highways. He suggested that the Traffic Safety Commission consider a request process for all townships to follow. He suggested that we only allow limited stretches on County highways to allow operators to move around more easily.

Site Evaluations:

Village of Maribel requesting a speed reduction from 55 mph to 45 mph on CORD Z from Pleasant Road to I43: Jason Orth reviewed accident statistic for the area in question. Crash data showed several property damage accidents occurring in the parking lot of the convenience store and one injury accident in the last five years. No accidents resulted from speed and the crash data does not justify a speed reduction for present conditions.

Falkowski pointed out that close calls are not reflected in the crash data. It was noted that more businesses are coming to the area including possibly another trucking company and cheese factory. Extreme Trucking is also looking to expand.

Greg Grotegut stated changing the speed limit would only involve changing signs for the Highway Department.

Dan Hartwig made a motion to refer this area to the Department of Transportation for a speed study, second by Brian Nack; motion carried.

Town of Centerville requesting site evaluation for the intersection of CORD XX and S Union Road Stemper driveway request. Greg Grotegut stated the County Highway Department denied the driveway request as submitted. An excavating company purchased land at this location and wishes to enter/exit the property directly onto CORD XX. The area in question is 300' from the intersection with S Union Rd. a controlled access area.

Mason Simmons stated the State did investigate this area and coming from the east sight distance is hampered by a vertical curve and bowl. Simmons stated installing a driveway at that location would create a safety issue. Exiting the property onto the Town road would be the safer option.

Greg Grotegut stated with input from the Department of Transportation he motions to deny the driveway request, second by Brian Nack; motion carried.

CORD VV/ STHY 42 intersection review: This site evaluation was discussed later in the meeting with recent fatalities.

ATV/UTV Use on County Highways: Greg Grotegut wished to discuss this topic as all townships have ordinances that vary and he has received requests to operate on County Highways. Information from Brown County Highway Department was distributed regarding their policy. Concerns and options were discussed. Rick Olig pointed out that once you open it up it is difficult to go back, and sometimes ATVs simply have to be trailered for safety. Olig suggested having a County ordinance and a plan to determine the application and review process.

Brian Kohlmeier stated riding ATV/UTVs has been brought up in the City of Two Rivers, but there is no way to get into Two Rivers except by County or State Highway. If operation on County Highways was allowed it would be an issue for the cities as well.

Some concerns brought up included: valid driver's licenses, insurance issues, under reporting of ATV/UTV accidents, signage and noise. It was also noted that most ATV fatalities are on roadways and not on trails.

Motion by Brian Nack to table discussion and invite Warden Darren Kuhn an expert on ATV/UTVs to attend the October meeting for further discussion, second by Brian Kohlmeier; motion carried.

DOT Update Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative: Rick Olig reported 266 fatal accidents so far in 2021 as compared to 292 for 2020. Some areas of concern include I43 at Fischer Creek Rd with 37 crashes in the last 5 years including 9 personal injury and one fatal. STHY 42 at CORD VV had 4 crashes in the last 5 years with 3 of those being in 2021. The Governor's Conference will be held virtually August 17-19th. Community Map changes were discussed along with the Legislative Summary. See attached Power Point from Rick Olig.

Recent Fatalities:

June 8, 2021 I43 NB at Fischer Creek Road. 24 YO male rear-ended a vehicle, crossed the median and hit a tree. Road and weather conditions were good. High speed was a contributing factor and no seatbelt was worn. Mason Simmons stated cable barriers will be added to this stretch of I43.

July 5, 2021 USHY 10 at CORD P. 86 YO male pulled out in front of milk truck. Male died at the scene. Poor vision of the victim may have contributed.

July 10, 2021 CORD VV at STHY 42. Out-of-town female operator failed to stop at the stop sign and was struck by a SB truck. Female operator and 7 YO child died as a result of crash. Intersection currently has dual stop signs. The State DOT reviewed this intersection finding the stop ahead signs had faded and an Adopt a Highway sign should be relocated. Mason Simmons also suggested adding another stop sign and 4' white tube delineators to draw attention and route vehicles appropriately. Pavement markings should also be repainted. Greg Grotegut stated this area has

been scheduled and will be repainted in 2021. Stop ahead signs will be replaced. Cross-traffic does not stop signs could also be added to existing signage.

Motion by Brian Kohlmeier to add cross traffic does not stop signs to existing stop signs, second by Dave Funkhouser; motion carried.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Motion to adjourn by Rick Olig, second by Dave Funkhouser; motion carried.

Submitted by:

Holly Herzog, Secretary